

# THE WILSON BULLETIN

A Quarterly Magazine Devoted to the Study of Birds. Official Organ of the Wilson Ornithological Club

*Edited by* **LYNDS JONES**

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## EDITORIAL

The Editor will leave Oberlin on June 20, and will not return until September 15. Matters relating to the business of the Wilson Bulletin should be addressed to the Business Manager, Gerard Alan Abbott, 1543 E. 61st St., Chicago, Ill. Manuscript intended for publication may be addressed to the Editor at his Oberlin address, and it will be taken care of there.

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As may be well known to many readers, the Editor will conduct a party of college student from Oberlin to Seattle, and from there down the coast of Washington from Cape Flattery to Moclips, which lies on the coast north of Gray's Harbor. The party leaves Oberlin on June 20, via the New York Central lines, reaching Seattle on June 24, via C. M. & St. Paul R. R. From Seattle the steamer Bellingham will convey the party to Neah Bay, and from there the trip down the coast will be made by launch and canoe with the coast Indians in charge. While this trip is made for the purpose of the study of the ecology of the region, the birds will receive their fair share of attention, and the islands included in the bird reserves will be visited.

Pressure of work has prevented any extended review of the literature which has come to the Editor's table, nor will it be possible to prepare such copy for the September issue. It is hoped that after the new school year begins this phase of the Bulletin may be resumed.

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The absence of the Editor for the summer, and until the time for the issue of the September number, will cause a delay of two or three weeks in the appearance of the September number. The Editor begs for so much of the indulgence of the readers of the Bulletin.

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The account of the second annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Club was crowded out of the March issue, where it should have appeared. It is presented at this late date as a matter of record. The time of the next meeting has not yet been decided upon.

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## CORRESPONDENCE

*Editor, Wilson Bulletin.*

DEAR SIR:—An article\* in the last volume of your publication contains statements subject to correction. This article is a criticism of a review which the writer published of four papers on field observations upon the feeding of nestling birds, prepared by students of the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory.

The review to which Professor Stephens objects was published in the Auk for July, 1914 (pp. 420-421). It was intentionally made brief and mild in tone. Professor Stephens, however, refers to the "captious reviewer," a trite phrase that slips readily from the pen, but which in the present instance is unjustified. That the reviewer was reluctant to criticize the papers considered is shown by the fact that the earliest one was published two years before the review. The overconfidence exhibited by its writer in recording the identity of items of food fed to nestlings was thought to be only one of the defects to be expected in an early scientific essay. It was hoped that succeeding papers would be more conservative. However, the repetition of the same kind of work made me decide to protest.

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\* Stephens, T. C., A Rejoinder. Wilson Bull. XXVI, No. 3, Sept. 1914, pp. 157-161.